

ACTS 21-22 ☐ - LIVE LIKE JESUS

1 John 2:3-6 We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. **4** Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5

But if anyone obeys his word,
love for God
is truly made complete in them.
This is how we know
we are in him:

6
Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

Jesus came to this world knowing very clearly what people will do to him

1. LAY DOWN YOUR LIFE TO SAVE IT

Acts 21:17-26 When we arrived at Jerusalem, the brothers and sisters received us warmly. **18** The next day Paul and the rest of us went to see James, and all the elders were present.

19
Paul greeted them and reported in detail what God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

20 When they heard this, they praised God. Then they said to Paul: "You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law. **21** They have been informed that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to turn away from Moses, tell
ing them not to circumcise their children
or live according to our customs.

22

What shall we do? They will certainly hear that you have come,
23

so do what we tell you. There are four men with us who have made a vow.
24

Take these men, join in their purification rites
and pay their expenses, so that they can have their heads shaved.
Then everyone will know there is no truth in these reports about you, but that you yourself are
living in obedience to the law.
25

As for the Gentile believers, we have written to them our decision that they should abstain from
food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual
immorality.”

26 The next day Paul took the men and purified himself along with them. Then he went to the
temple to give notice of the date when the days of purification would end and the offering would
be made for each of them.

When Paul visited Jerusalem he met James and other elders in Jerusalem.

**They were very much impressed to hear how God was using Paul to bring 1000s of
gentiles to Christ.**

**But they also were concerned about his safety. They knew that many Jews are angry at
Paul as he was reaching out to the Gentiles.**

**As Paul's life was in danger, they devised a plan, he was asked to go to the temple & do
the rituals.**

**èVs 23b-24 There are four men with us who have made a vow.²⁴ Take these men, join in
their purification rites an
d pay their expenses, so that they can have their heads shaved.
Then everyone will know there is no truth in these reports about you, but that you
yourself are living in obedience to the law.**

But that plan did not produce its intended result!

Acts 21:27-36 Paul Arrested

²⁷ When the seven days were nearly over, some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul at the temple. They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him, ²⁸ shouting, "Fellow Israelites, help us! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people and our law and this place. And besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place."

²⁹

(They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple.)

³⁰ The whole city was aroused, and the people came running from all directions. Seizing Paul, they dragged him from the temple, and immediately the gates were shut. ³¹ While they were trying to kill him, news reached the commander of the Roman troops that the whole city of Jerusalem was in an uproar.

³²

He at once took some officers and soldiers and ran down to the crowd. When the rioters saw the commander and his soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.

³³ **The commander came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains.** Then he asked who he was and what he had done. ³⁴ Some in the crowd shouted one thing and some another, and since the commander could not get at the truth because of the uproar, he ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks.

³⁵

When Paul reached the steps, the violence of the mob was so great he had to be carried by the soldiers.

³⁶

The crowd that followed kept shouting, "Get rid of him!"

³⁷ As the soldiers were about to take Paul into the barracks, he asked the commander, "May I say something to you?"

“Do you speak Greek?” he replied. ³⁸ “Aren’t you the Egyptian who started a revolt and led four thousand terrorists out into the wilderness some time ago?”

³⁹ Paul answered, “I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no ordinary city. Please let me speak to the people.”

⁴⁰ After receiving the commander’s permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the crowd. When they were all silent, he said to them in Aramaic [a]

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Prophecy of Prophet Agabus is fulfilled – Paul bound with chains.

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If a mob attacks us what is that we will desire? Escape unhurt!

Paul's attitude was different –

“If we are the sheep of His pasture, remember that sheep are headed for the altar.”

□ [Jim Elliot](#)

Paul must have remembered -

Luke 9:24 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

Why was Paul talking to the crowd? Was it to save himself or to save them?

Luke 21: 12 “But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. ¹³ And so you will bear testimony to me. ¹⁴ But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves.

¹⁵

For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

¹⁶

You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death.

¹⁷

Everyone will hate you because of me.

¹⁸

But not a hair of your head will perish.

¹⁹

Stand firm, and you will win life.

2. LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Paul was not trying to save himself but to save the listeners/his persecutors/ was willing to lay down his life for his enemies. That is what it means to walk as Jesus did!

Movie clip – end of the spear – Jim Elliot & 4 other missionaries

Gets speared to death – yet their wives goes to the murderers of their husbands with their children to preach the gospel.

Acts 22:1-21

¹ “Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense.”

² When they heard him speak to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet.

Then Paul said: ³ “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.

⁴ I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison,

⁵ as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

⁶ “About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. ⁷ I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, ‘Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?’

⁸ “Who are you, Lord?’ I asked.

“ ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,’ he replied. ⁹ My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.

¹⁰ “‘What shall I do, Lord?’ I asked.

“ ‘Get up,’ the Lord said, ‘and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.’ ¹¹ My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.

¹² “A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. ¹³ He stood beside me and said, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ And at that very moment I was able to see him.

¹⁴ “Then he said: ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. ¹⁵ You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.’

¹⁷ “When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance ¹⁸ and saw the Lord speaking to me. ‘Quick!’ he said. ‘Leave Jerusalem immediately, because the people here will not accept your testimony about me.’

¹⁹ “‘Lord,’ I replied, ‘these people know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. ²⁰ And when the blood of your martyr^[a] Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.’

²¹ “Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’ ”

Paul was filled with compassion for the Jews who were zealous for God yet was in the wrong!

What Paul wanted to communicate to them how he himself was blinded by the same ideas they had and was against Jesus and his followers.

³ “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. ⁴ I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, ⁵ as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

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YAHWEH YESHUA NAZERENE – Saul was convicted- Jesus is Yahweh -LORD

Whom you are persecuting: they did not persecute Jesus – if anyone persecute Christians – Jesus takes it as he being persecuted!

Our pain is His pain; Our joy is his joy – THAT IS WHY HE CALLS THE CHURCH THE BODY OF CHRIST.

In Acts 5 we saw Ananias lied to Peter – But Peter asked **him** “**Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit.**”

Once he realized Jesus is Yahweh – he surrendered and asked what shall I do Lord?

This is what it means to have Jesus as Lord – Lord – master – King- our duty is to wait on Jesus and do his will/whatever pleases him.

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Jesus wanted Saul to surrender to him and to submit to other men of God!

Saul had a personal interaction with Jesus the Lord, chosen by him yet had to submit to other men in the body of Christ – that is what is expected out of all of us too.

Saul was humbled to the point that the leader had to be led by had all the way to Damascus...

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²¹ “Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go; I will send you far away to the **Gentiles.**’ ”

²² The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they raised their voices and shouted, “Rid the earth of him! He’s not fit to live!”

²³ As they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, ²⁴ the commander ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks. He directed that he be flogged and interrogated in order to find out why the people were shouting at him like this.

²⁵ As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul said to the centurion standing there, “Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn’t even been found guilty?”

²⁶ When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and reported it. “What are you going to do?” he asked. “This man is a Roman citizen.”

²⁷ The commander went to Paul and asked, “Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?”

“Yes, I am,” he answered.

²⁸ Then the commander said, “I had to pay a lot of money for my citizenship.”

“But I was born a citizen,” Paul replied.

²⁹ Those who were about to interrogate him withdrew immediately. The commander himself was alarmed when he realized that he had put Paul, a Roman citizen, in chains.

³⁰ The commander wanted to find out exactly why Paul was being accused by the Jews. So the next day he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the members of the Sanhedrin to assemble. Then he brought Paul and had him stand before them.

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They couldn’t bear with what Paul just spoke – that Jesus appeared to him and told him to go to the Gentiles!

Remember Jews considered Gentiles as unclean and that they are here to be used as fire for the fuel in hell!

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES